

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3321

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN SP SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA--SPANISH REQUEST TO SYG

1. WALDHEIM TELEPHONED ME NOON TODAY TO INFORM ME THAT SPANISH AMBASSADOR DELIVERED TWO NOTES TO HIM. THE FIRST ASKS THAT HE SEND A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SPANISH SAHARA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE SITUATION IS DETERIORATING. THE SECOND ASKS THAT HE CONVENE A QUADRAPARTITE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY.

2. AS BACKGROUND THE SYG NOTES THAT THE SPANISH EFFORTS TO CONVENE A MADRID CONFERENCE FAILED. THE KING OF MOROCCO HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD NEVER TO GO A CONFERENCE WITH THE ALGERIANS. THE ALGERIANS CLAIM NO TERRITORY BUT WANT AN INDEPENDENT SPANISH MOROCCO. THE KING FEELS THIS WAS FORMERLY MOROCCAN TERRITORY AND WHEN SPAIN LEAVES THE TERRITORY MUST BE RETURNED TO MOROCCO. BOUMEDIENE TOLD SYG THAT ALGERIA CAN NEVER ACCEPT THIS. HENCE THERE IS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.

3. THE SPANISH PURPOSE THE SYG STATED IS TO KEEP THINGS QUIET AND AVOID BORDER INCIDENTS, WHILE AWAITING THE ICJ OPINION AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24 REPORTS. THE DO NOT EXPECT THE CONFERENCE TO SETTLE ANYTHING AS SUCH.

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4. INITIALLY THE SYG EXPRESSED SOME HESITATION TO ME AS TO

HIS AUTHORITY TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT GUIDANCE FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE LEARNED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN HENNIG (SYG'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT) AND MISOFF THAT SYG NOW CONVINCED THE PRECEDENTS EXIST TO SUPPORT HIS SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE. HE IS, HOWEVER, CONCERNED WHETHER IT IS PRUDENT FOR HIM TO DO SO IF THE MOROCCANS DO NOT CONCUR IN THE REQUEST. HE WONDERS HOW HIS REPRESENTATIVE COULD "FIND THE FACTS" OR IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTE TO COOLING DOWN THE SITUATION WITHOUT MOROCCAN ACQUIESCENCE.

5. SHOULD WE OFFER ADVICE AND IF SO WHAT?
MOYNIHAN

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